

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 11-13, 31, 32 and 34-44 are subject to a species election as set forth in the Office Action. Applicants have amended the application as noted above in view of the Office Action. Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1-5, 11-24, 27-30, 32, 34-36, 43 and 44 will be pending. Claims 14-24 and 27-30 are withdrawn from consideration. Applicants have cancelled claims 37-42 by this Amendment, without prejudice to the presentation of such claims in a divisional application. Applicants wish to make the following species elections in response to the Office Action.

Applicants elect a species where one of fibers A and B is a biodegradable polymer and one of fibers A and fibers B comprises a biodegradable glass, without traverse. Applicants have amended claim 1, cancelled claims 31 and 37-42 and amended claim 32 in view of the election.

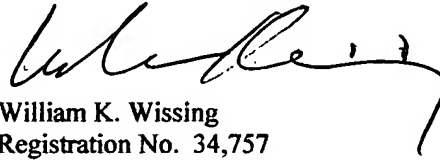
Applicants elect a species where the device does not comprise a bioabsorbable polymer used to penetrate the fibrous matrix, without traverse.

Applicants elect a species where the biodegradable glass comprises a silicate-containing phosphate glass over glass fibers comprising calcium phosphate where some of the calcium ions are replaced by ions as set forth in claim 35, without traverse.

Based on the foregoing elections, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-5, 11-13, 32, 34 and 36 read on the elected species. Applicants have not cancelled all claims directed to nonelected species in that, upon allowance of a generic claim, Applicants would seek consideration of those claims withdrawn from consideration, yet pending.

Applicants respectfully submit that the foregoing is a complete response to the Office Action and that all pending claims are patentable and earnestly request a notice of allowance with respect to all pending claims.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William K. Wissing', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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